

## Choral Awards

The school supports the music of Ely Cathedral by providing a range of Choral Awards and Scholarships for choristers and former choristers. Please see the table below for details:

\*INSERT TABLE

\*All Chorister and Choral Awards may be means-tested up to 100% of the day or boarding fee as need dictates and funds allow.

For suitably talented boy or girl who are successful in achieving a Chorister or Choral Award but who may be prevented from becoming a chorister for financial reasons, the Bursaries Committee will consider applications for a means-tested Bursary (please see the section on means-tested Bursaries). In such circumstances parents may also be expected to apply independently to the Choir Schools Association (CSA) and other third-party organisations as advised for assistance with school fees funding as a condition of their application.

The Chapter of Ely Cathedral and School Governors jointly fund the Chorister Award fee remission for up to 24 Boy Chorister (aged 7-13) and 20 Girl Chorister (aged 11 to 16) positions as well as some means-tested augmentation to those awards. Ely Cathedral does not provide funding for any other Choral related fee remission. Former Boy and Girl Choristers (and others) entering Year 12 may apply to become a Choral Scholar. The School Governors currently fund up to 6 Choral Scholarship awards at 33% of the day fee.

Holders of Choral/Former Choral Awards and Choral Scholarships remain eligible for academic or music scholarships at 13+ and 16+ which are awarded after a competitive examination in the Lent term of each year. However, the monetary value of any academic or music scholarship awarded will be subsumed by the Choral Award or Choral Scholarship, which is well in excess of our present maximum scholarship of 10% of the day fee. In qualifying cases, fees may be further subsidised by additional, means-tested bursary funding as above.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are also awarded following an application process for the following:

- Academic Scholarships for entry into Year 9
- Year 9 specialist Scholarships for Music, Art, Drama, STEM and Sport
- Sixth Form Scholarships (on entry into Year 12) are open to existing pupils or to candidates from other schools following their GCSEs.

Please note: most scholarship financial related awards are subsumed by any Choral Awards.

Governors are particularly appreciative if parents whose child has been selected for a scholarship are willing to surrender some or all of any financial benefit to another pupil who needs assistance. Their own child would still retain the status of scholar.

All scholarships expire at the end of Year 11 (a fresh application to enter into Year 12 is required).

Parents of eligible scholarship applicants are contacted by letter to invite applications. The letter provides clear timelines within the application and assessment process.

Packages of private music/instrument/vocal lessons awarded to a number of music/choral scholars and all active choristers as detailed within the Scholarship award letter will be paid directly by the school to the self-employed Visiting Music Teacher. If parents wish to have any extra lessons over and above this allowance, they will need to make the arrangements directly with the teacher. Equally, if parents wish to cancel the lessons, they will need to provide the teacher with half a term's notice in line with their contractual arrangement, otherwise charges to the parents will likely apply.

Payment is subject to continuing good performance and behaviour and an ongoing contribution to the specialist subject areas. All scholarships are reviewed annually.

## King's and Queen's Scholars

Up to 12 of the top scholars in Year 12 are nominated for these prestigious but honorary scholarships, for which there is no application process. King's and Queen's Scholars become members of the Cathedral Foundation, qualify for certain privileges, and receive a small financial award in recognition of their status.

Excellence is the only criterion.

### Allowances

Further funds are made available for:

- A fee remission of up to 10% for children of Clergy serving the Christian faith within the Anglican Communion (available from Reception Year).
- Boarding children eligible for Armed Forces Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) receive an allowance such that taking into account any other Scholarships and/or Awards, the parental contribution is limited to 10% of the boarding fees (the CEA Allowance pays the remaining 90%). This will be reviewed if the MoD changes significantly the CEA scheme and/or the funding arrangements at any time in the future.
- Children of those Crown Servants eligible for the existing Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) CEA scheme will be guaranteed that the School fees payable remain within the FCO's CEA annual ceilings (from Year 3). Fee accounts of such funded children will receive a 5% discount from the day or boarding fee except in circumstances where other fee remission/award/allowance is provided, in which case any higher or equivalent fee remission/award/allowance will subsume the FCO 5% fee allowance.
- A sibling discount of 10% of the day fees is awarded to the third child and subsequent children of the same immediate family attending King's Ely. The discount is only available whilst three or more children from the same parent(s) are at King's Ely concurrently and only available from Year 3 onwards. The discount will apply to the youngest child(ren), irrespective of the order of entry into the school, and will cease as older siblings leave school.

To apply/be considered for any of the above allowances, please ensure that through the Admissions process (Acceptance Form) it is made clear that you fall into any of the categories above. For sibling discount, we will normally pick this up automatically, but again, this should be flagged up during the Admissions process

### Extra charges

The school tries to include as much as possible within the published day and boarding fees. Many of our extra-curricular activities are inclusive within the termly fees. However, a number of items are charged as extras on your bill.

Generally, extra charges come about by either parental request (e.g. an elective school trip) or you will have been asked if you wish to opt for whatever is being offered (e.g. a school photograph or opt-in insurance). Any requested or agreed extra charges will normally be added to your next fees invoice (i.e. charged in arrears) or in some cases you will be asked for payment at the time (e.g. school trips).

Examples of extra charges (or costs to be borne by families directly) are below:

- Uniform and personal sports equipment
- School photographs
- School-organised extra tuition
- Physiotherapy
- Home-school-home minibuss route fees
- Flexi/occasional Boarding/Day pupil Late Stays
- Pre-Prep Wrap Around Care

- Private music/vocal/drama lessons
- Text Books
- Examination fees
- Examination re-marks
- Music and Drama exams
- Elective school trips
- Old Eleans membership subscription
- Damage/Breakages/Lost items
- Late payment fees
- Dental treatment (boarders)
- Taxi fees
- Specialist after school activities and clubs
- Weekend activities for boarders
- Insurance

### **International Programme Fees**

Invoices are issued termly for payment in advance. Fees should be paid by the due date as stated on the invoice. Extra charges for chargeable items are payable in arrears through the school billing system. Payment by bank transfer is preferable or failing that, cheques drawn on a UK bank account; cash is not accepted. Credit cards can be used to settle any fees and charges. Credit card payments can be taken over the telephone or in person at the Finance office. Card details must not be emailed. AMEX is not accepted.

For those making payments from non-UK bank accounts, we recommend use of Flywire's international payment service. This is a system set up specifically for educational international fund transfers and offers a cost effective and efficient route for parents to transfer money to our UK bank account. Exchange rates are competitive, and all is transacted online without the need for time consuming paperwork. Flywire offer exchange rate guarantees (under their Terms and Conditions). Please see [www.flywire.com/pay/kingsely](http://www.flywire.com/pay/kingsely)

#### **What is included?**

The School Fees include breakfast, lunch, and evening meal for Boarders and lunch for Day pupils. The tuition fee also includes school trips where they are compulsory for whole year groups, textbooks and an issue of basic stationery. The school fees for King's Ely International (KEI Year 11\*) students also include:

The first arrival airport to school and final departure school to airport transfer journey;

A number of curriculum and weekend visits to various parts of UK to learn and experience different aspects of UK culture and tradition in;

Comprehensive personal possessions insurance for students (up to £7,500 limit per pupil);

GCSE examination entry fees are also included within the KEI Year 11 tuition fees.

The School reserves the right to charge for any damage caused and the replacement of lost items.

Fees for elective school trips, ESOL & Curriculum support, any agreed 1:1 Learning Support, home-school minibus usage, and private music and drama lessons/exams will be charged in addition to the standard tuition fees.

Any charges arising from requests for examination re-marks, appeals, or late changes in examination entries requested by pupils/parents will be asked for payment in advance prior to submitting the request to the examination board.

#### **Private Music/Vocal/Drama Lessons**

Individual Music/Drama/Trinity lessons are delivered by Visiting Teachers (VTs). We have agreed a rate with our VTs for the provision of private lessons of £41.20 per hour (equating to £30.90/45 minute lesson and £24.00/35 minute lesson). The normal termly charge is for a "package" of 10 lessons, with lesson durations set by age. For pupils in Years 12 & 13, 10 x 45 minute lessons at £309 per term (£927 per academic year) and pupils in Year 11 and below, 10 x 35 minute lessons at £240 per term (£720 per academic year).

Music lessons are invoiced by the self-employed VT concerned in advance direct to the parents, except where the cost of music lessons is offered as part of a scholarship/Chorister or other package, in which case VTs will invoice the School directly each term. Ceasing of lessons should be notified directly to the VT a term in advance otherwise fees to the parents will be charged by the VT.

Any missed lessons, without sufficient prior notice to cancel the music/instrument singing lesson will be billed directly to the parents, including those where free music lessons are awarded.

### **One to One Learning Support Provision**

Any package of individual one to one learning support lessons agreed with parents will be charged at a rate of £52/hour irrespective of the age of the child concerned.

### **Flexi/Occasional Boarding & Late Stays (for any KEI/KESi/KEJi Day pupils)**

Subject to availability of beds in the appropriate year group, it may be possible to offer overnight accommodation for Day pupils on an occasional or regular basis at a cost of £70 per night in Senior School and £58 per night in Junior School. This nightly charge is applicable for all boarding arrangements whether extended or on a regular but flexible basis.

In some boarding houses it may also be possible to offer a “late stay” arrangement encompassing tea and first prep, dependent on space and demand. For all flexi and occasional boarding needs please contact the Director of Boarding in the first instance.

### **Registration Fee**

A non-refundable registration fee of £100, payable once only, is required when a pupil first registers for King’s Ely. For students domiciled outside UK, the registration fee is £150.

### **Acceptance Deposit / Additional Deposit**

An Acceptance Deposit (with an Additional Deposit for international domiciled parents) is required on entry into the school as per the table below. For the sake of clarity, the Additional Deposit is levied in the case of a pupil whose normal residence is outside the United Kingdom, not where funds are paid from (except UK Forces/UK Diplomats/Civil Servants serving overseas on a “posting”, where it will be considered they are UK residents).

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Acceptance Deposit Payable</b>
3-13	£500
International Domiciled Students	£500 plus 1 terms fees

**The Acceptance Deposits** will be retained within the general funds of the School until the pupil leaves and will be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of Fees or other sums due to the School on leaving. The final account is issued towards the end of the first half of the term following the term the student left.

**The Additional Deposit** for international domiciled students will be retained within the general funds of the School until the pupil leaves and if appropriate notice to leave has been provided, will be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final term’s payment of Fees or other sums due to the School on leaving. The final account is issued towards the end of the first half of the term following the term the student left.

### **Fees in Advance Scheme (FIA)**

We operate a scheme whereby funds towards school fees can be paid in advance attracting a small discount. Further details can be obtained from the Head of Finance. If Fees in Advance are used to pay fees, the Acceptance Deposit is required in addition to the FIA. At the start of each term the FIA value held by the school must always be equal to or above the combined value of the Acceptance Deposit and the Additional Deposit for International domiciled pupils. When fees are paid in advance, any extra charges should be settled each term as per the invoice issued.

### Providing Notice to Withdraw a Child or Change Status Between Day and Boarding

A full term's written notice must be provided to withdraw a child from school or change status between Boarding and Day, otherwise Fees in Lieu of Notice will be charged, equating to a full term's fees. The only exception to this is a child leaving at the end of Year 13, and any child on a short-term/one year course agreed at the time of Acceptance of a place.

## Frequently asked questions

### What is Flywire?

Flywire is an international payment system created specifically to allow international funds transfer for educational purposes. The system is secure and offers an end-to-end traceable service at very competitive rates. What a payee pays is the total cost. There are no further additions or deductions taken by routing banks or high street bank currency conversion rates. It is our preferred method for receiving funds from non-UK domiciled parents (and re-paying funds, e.g. returning Acceptance Deposits). Please see our Flywire site for more information.

### Why do you prefer we use Flywire for international payments over a traditional international bank transfer?

The charging structure of Flywire is far more equitable for parents/bill payers than retail banks. The system is secure and traceable by both the parents and the Accounts team throughout the transaction. It's also much faster than traditional bank transfers. Feedback from those who have used the service say the system is easy to use, very intuitive and the rates of exchange favourable. Flywire offer a guarantee of being the cheapest method of transfers funds (within certain conditions).

### Do you offer any form of fee assistance for children attending King's Ely?

We do provide a limited amount of assistance under certain circumstances, mainly to assist children through their GCSE years. There are various other fee remissions available for choristers and former choristers, eligible military/FCO/Clergy families and sibling discounts. Please see the sections on financial assistance and fee remissions.

### Can I pay the fees in advance for a year or more and do I receive any discount for doing so?

Yes. We offer a Fees in Advance scheme

### What happens if I don't want to receive my invoice by email?

Please let us know and we will resolve the issue. It would also be useful for us to understand why, as the feedback since changing to this system has been overwhelmingly positive.

### Can I pay my fees monthly instead of termly?

We don't offer a Direct Debit payment facility at present. We have considered this previously but the extra workload/staff cost of reconciling a monthly payment for 1000 students and doing this work three times a year is a significant factor. Monthly instalments via Direct Debit using School Fees Plan, a credit company set up specifically for payment of school fees, with an interest rate of 3.56% from September 2023. Details of the scheme, how it operates and the application process can be found on the School Fees Plan website.

By introducing School Fees Plan as a possible method of settling your school fees, King's Ely is acting as a credit broker and is an Appointed Representative of Premium Credit Limited. Premium Credit Limited is the lender which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. School Fee Plan is a trading style of Premium Credit Limited.

### Who should I contact if I have a query about my bill?

Please contact Accounts in the first instance.

### **What happens if my child misses school owing to illness – will my fees be reduced?**

We do not offer any proportional refunds for children who miss school owing to illness. You will appreciate that our costs do not decrease if a pupil is not in school for a period of a few days, weeks or longer. Naturally, we will liaise with parents to ensure work is “sent” home or made available via electronic means for the child to continue to access their coursework, depending upon the particular circumstances. For longer term situations, that might last longer than a term, please do ask about financial arrangements.

### **What happens if I don't pay my fees on time?**

We will remind you, gently at first, and over a series of a number of formal reminders becoming more forthright. We will charge a late payment fee from the date the fees are first due until the date they are paid. The cost of this late payment fee is charged at 2% per month (please see the Terms & Conditions). If you are in unforeseen, genuine financial hardship or you have extenuating circumstances, we will consider waving of the late fees. Communication with us as early as possible is key to our understanding the situation.